

# Situation Chromium-VI Compounds

No prohibition has been imposed on the use of chromium-VI compounds. However, the continued use of chromium-VI compounds must be authorised. The relevant application was to be submitted by 21 March 2016. Without authorisation, the use after 21 September 2017 is no longer permitted. There is no intention to ban this technology that has existed for decades and has been reliably controlled:

In the electroplating process, chrome is deposited as a metal and lies on the carrier material (e.g. metal, plastic) as an end surface in neutral form, chromium-0, and is therefore non-toxic. Therefore there is no potential danger for users and consumers. The required properties of this chrome coating are its very good corrosion resistance, abrasion resistance as well as the color stability of this metal, all of which are currently not fully achieved by alternatives. Process-reliable and suitable alternatives are currently being researched. From today's perspective, it can be assumed that by the sunset date of September 2017, a process technology that can completely replace chromium-VI coating will not have been developed for industrial production or be ready for series production. An alternative coating will certainly be possible where the product's resistance requirements do not correspond to those of chrome-VI coating. The companies in the industry were therefore faced with the challenge of applying for authorisation, so that for this reason on 09 May 2012 the association:

**VECCO e.V. -**

**Association for the Preservation of Use and Utilization of Chromium Trioxide and Other Chemicals in Surface Technology**

was founded, and together with its partner Eupoc GmbH is working towards authorisation for its more than 170 members. Together they are also technically, legally and politically handling expected future restrictions for other chemicals used in the galvanic surface technology, so that the interests of all involved parties (enterprises, employees, environment) can be realized in a manner enabling the location Europe (whose high standards are recognized world-wide) to further manufacture products protected by chrome.

Source: [vecco.de](http://vecco.de)